

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please amend paragraph [18] as follows:*

[18] The characteristics can be used to, e.g., search email repositories by combining information in the email message, itself, with information from an external database. For example, a sender's name, date of the message, etc., can be combined with corporate ~~directly~~ directory information such as the sender's department, location, job title, etc. Traditional email tools, such as using rules for automatic sorting of email into different folders, can be used with characteristics obtained from external databases. For example, a rule to "put all messages from anyone in Human Resources in the HR subfolder" can be created and applied. Custom archiving of email messages is also possible such as to "archive all messages to and from people in the legal department for a period of time according to the current corporate holding policy."